

House of Representatives, April 6, 1998. The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BYSIEWICZ, 100th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXEMPTING CANDIDATE APPEARANCES ON CABLE TELEVISION PUBLIC ACCESS SHOWS FROM THE DEFINITION OF "CONTRIBUTION" UNDER THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 9-333b of the general statutes, as  
2 amended by section 9 of public act 97-5 of the  
3 June 18 special session, is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

5 (a) As used in this chapter, "contribution"  
6 means:

7 (1) Any gift, subscription, loan, advance,  
8 payment or deposit of money or anything of value,  
9 made for the purpose of influencing the nomination  
10 for election, or election, of any person or for  
11 the purpose of aiding or promoting the success or  
12 defeat of any referendum question or on behalf of  
13 any political party;

14 (2) A written contract, promise or agreement  
15 to make a contribution for any such purpose;

16 (3) The payment by any person, other than a  
17 candidate or campaign treasurer, of compensation  
18 for the personal services of any other person  
19 which are rendered without charge to a committee  
20 or candidate for any such purpose;

21 (4) An expenditure when made by a person with  
22 the cooperation of, or in consultation with, any  
23 candidate, candidate committee or candidate's  
24 agent or which is made in concert with, or at the  
25 request or suggestion of, any candidate, candidate  
26 committee or candidate's agent; or

27 (5) Funds received by a committee which are  
28 transferred from another committee or other source  
29 for any such purpose.

30 (b) As used in this chapter, "contribution"  
31 does not mean:

32 (1) A loan of money made in the ordinary  
33 course of business by a national or state bank;

34 (2) Any communication made by a corporation,  
35 organization or association to its members,  
36 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative  
37 personnel, or their families;

38 (3) Nonpartisan voter registration and  
39 get-out-the-vote campaigns by any corporation,  
40 organization or association aimed at its members,  
41 owners, stockholders, executive or administrative  
42 personnel, or their families;

43 (4) Uncompensated services provided by  
44 individuals volunteering their time;

45 (5) The use of real or personal property, and  
46 the cost of invitations, food or beverages,  
47 voluntarily provided by an individual to a  
48 candidate or on behalf of a state central or town  
49 committee, in rendering voluntary personal  
50 services for candidate or party-related activities  
51 at the individual's residence, to the extent that  
52 the cumulative value of the invitations, food or  
53 beverages provided by the individual on behalf of  
54 any single candidate does not exceed two hundred  
55 dollars with respect to any single election, and  
56 on behalf of all state central and town committees  
57 does not exceed four hundred dollars in any  
58 calendar year;

59 (6) The sale of food or beverage for use in a  
60 candidate's campaign or for use by a state central  
61 or town committee at a discount, if the charge is  
62 not less than the cost to the vendor, to the  
63 extent that the cumulative value of the discount  
64 given to or on behalf of any single candidate does  
65 not exceed two hundred dollars with respect to any  
66 single election, and on behalf of all state  
67 central and town committees does not exceed four  
68 hundred dollars in a calendar year;

69 (7) Any unreimbursed payment for travel  
70 expenses made by an individual who on his own  
71 behalf volunteers his personal services to any  
72 single candidate to the extent the cumulative  
73 value does not exceed two hundred dollars with  
74 respect to any single election, and on behalf of  
75 all state central or town committees does not  
76 exceed four hundred dollars in a calendar year;

77 (8) The payment, by a party committee,  
78 political committee or an individual, of the costs  
79 of preparation, display, mailing or other  
80 distribution incurred by the committee or  
81 individual with respect to any printed slate card,  
82 sample ballot or other printed list containing the  
83 names of three or more candidates;

84 (9) The donation of any item of personal  
85 property by an individual to a committee for a  
86 fund-raising affair, including a tag sale or  
87 auction, or the purchase by an individual of any  
88 such item at such an affair, to the extent that  
89 the cumulative value donated or purchased does not  
90 exceed fifty dollars;

91 (10) The purchase of advertising space which  
92 clearly identifies the purchaser, in a program for  
93 a fund-raising affair, provided the cumulative  
94 purchase of such space does not exceed two hundred  
95 fifty dollars from any single candidate or his  
96 committee with respect to any single election  
97 campaign or two hundred fifty dollars from any  
98 single party committee or other political  
99 committee in any calendar year if the purchaser is  
100 a business entity or fifty dollars for purchases  
101 by any other person;

102 (11) The payment of money by a candidate to  
103 his candidate committee;

104 (12) The donation of goods or services by a  
105 business entity to a committee for a fund-raising  
106 affair, including a tag sale or auction, to the  
107 extent that the cumulative value donated does not  
108 exceed one hundred dollars; [or]

109 (13) The advance of a security deposit by an  
110 individual to a telephone company, as defined in  
111 section 16-1, for telecommunications service for a  
112 committee, provided the security deposit is  
113 refunded to the individual; OR

114 (14) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT,  
115 TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SUPPORT, AND BROADCAST  
116 TIME BY A COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION COMPANY, AS

117 DEFINED IN SECTION 16-1, FOR COMMUNITY ACCESS  
118 PROGRAMMING PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-331a, UNLESS  
119 (A) THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUCH  
120 FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, SUPPORT AND TIME IS TO  
121 INFLUENCE THE NOMINATION OR ELECTION OF A  
122 CANDIDATE OR (B) SUCH FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT,  
123 SUPPORT AND TIME ARE PROVIDED ON BEHALF OF A  
124 POLITICAL PARTY.

125 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS: At the end  
126 of Subdiv. (12), "or" was bracketed and, at the  
127 end of Subdiv. (13), "; OR" was inserted for  
128 statutory consistency.

129 GAE COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 17 NAY 0 JFS-LCO

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

\* \* \* \* \*

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5690**

STATE IMPACT                      See Explanation Below  
MUNICIPAL IMPACT                None  
STATE AGENCY(S)                Election Enforcement Commission

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

To the extent that complaints alleging violations are filed with the Elections Enforcement Commission, a workload increase could potentially result. Since the changes included in this bill are expected to be included within the Commission's educational program, any such workload increase is expected to be minimal, thus, could be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of the agency.

\* \* \* \* \*

**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

sHB 5690

**AN ACT EXEMPTING CANDIDATE APPEARANCES ON CABLE TELEVISION PUBLIC ACCESS SHOWS FROM THE DEFINITION OF "CONTRIBUTION" UNDER THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS**

**SUMMARY:** This bill exempts the use of facilities, equipment, technical and managerial support, and broadcast time provided by a cable TV company's public access program from the campaign finance laws' contribution limits and reporting requirements. The exemption applies unless the company provides the facilities, services, and time in order to influence a candidate's nomination or election to office or the

company provides them for a political party.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 17      Nay 0